



St. John's Parish
Roman Catholic Church

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“WHO WILL TAKE THE FIRST STEP?”

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - DECEMBER 8, 2024

Last Sunday, the liturgy invited us to experience the Season of Advent and of anticipation of the Lord with an attitude of vigilance and also of prayer: “be mindful” and “pray”. Today, the Second Sunday of Advent, we are shown how to give substance to this anticipation: by undertaking a journey of conversion, how to make this anticipation concrete. As a guide on this journey, the Gospel presents the figure of John the Baptist who “went into all the region about the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins” (Lk 3:3). To describe the Baptist’s mission, the Evangelist Luke refers to the ancient prophecy of Isaiah which says: “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be brought low” (vv. 4-5).

To prepare the way of the Lord’s coming, it is necessary to take note of the requirements of conversion to which the Baptist invites us. What are these requirements for conversion? First of all we are called to fill the ‘valleys’ caused by coldness and indifference, opening ourselves to others with the same sentiments as Jesus, that is, with affection and fraternal attention which takes on the needs of our neighbours. To fill the valleys caused by coldness. One cannot have a relationship of love, charity and fraternity with one’s neighbours if there are ‘gaps’ just as one cannot travel a road with many potholes. This requires a change of attitude. And all this should also be done with special attention to the neediest. Then there is the need to curtail the indifference caused by pride and arrogance. How many people, perhaps without realizing it, are proud, are indifferent, lack that kindly relationship. It is necessary to overcome this by making concrete gestures of reconciliation with our brothers and sisters, asking for forgiveness for our faults. It is not easy to reconcile with another. One always thinks: “who will take the first step?”. The Lord helps us in this if we are of good will. Indeed, conversion is complete if it leads us to humbly recognize our errors, our infidelity and failings.

The believer is someone who, by being close to his brothers and sisters, like John the Baptist, opens pathways in the desert, that is, he indicates perspectives of hope, even in those existential contexts that are arduous, marked by failure and defeat. We cannot give up in the face of negative situations of closure and rejection: we must not allow ourselves to succumb to the mentality of the world, because the centre of our life is Jesus and his word of light, love and solace. It is He! The Baptist invited the people of his time to conversion, with force, with vigour and with firmness. Nevertheless, he knew how to listen, he knew how to perform gestures of tenderness, gestures of forgiveness toward the multitude of men and women who went to him to confess their sins and to be baptized with the baptism of repentance.

The witness of John the Baptist helps us to go forward in our witness of life. The purity of his proclamation, his courage in proclaiming the truth were able to reawaken the expectation and hope in the Messiah that had long been dormant. Today too, Jesus’ disciples are called to be his humble but courageous witnesses in order to rekindle hope, to make it understood that, despite everything, the Kingdom of God continues to be built day by day with the power of the Holy Spirit. Let each of us ask ourselves: how can I change something in my attitude, in order to prepare the way of the Lord? May the Virgin Mary help us prepare the way of the Lord day by day, beginning with ourselves; and to scatter around us with steadfast patience, seeds of peace, justice and fraternity.

ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICES: There will be time of confession:

Friday, December 13, 6-8PM & **Tuesday**, December 17, 6-8PM

Priests speak both English & Spanish

CONFESIONES DE ADVIENTO: Aquí en nuestra parroquia

Viernes, 13 de diciembre de 6-8PM & **Martes**, 17 de diciembre de 6-8PM

Los sacerdotes hablan español e inglés

ENGLISH SCHEDULE

Second Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 7 **5:00 PM**
+Fr. George Stortz

Sunday, December 8 **9:00 AM**
For All Parishioners Living & Deceased

Tuesday, December 10 **11:00 AM**
Intention of Judy Bernard Julian & Family

Wednesday, December 11 **11:00 AM**
+Fr. George Stortz

Thursday, December 12 **11:00 AM**
Our Lady of Guadalupe
+Bleskie & Belkwell Families

Friday, December 13 **11:00 AM**
St. Lucy
+Fr. George Stortz

Third Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 14 **5:00 PM**
+Alexander Ropchan

Sunday, December 15 **9:00 AM**
For All Parishioners Living & Deceased

HORARIOS EN ESPAÑOL

II Domingo de Adviento

Sabado 7 de diciembre **7:00 PM**
+Marvin Castillo Courtade +Ricardo Paloma +Fernando Covarrubias

Domingo 8 de diciembre **11:00 AM**

Domingo 8 de diciembre **1:00 PM**
Por la Comunidad Parroquial

Lunes 9 de diciembre **12:00 PM**
La Inmaculada Concepción de la Santísima Virgen María

Martes 10 de diciembre **12:00 PM**

Miércoles 11 de diciembre **12:00 PM**

Fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, Patrona de nuestra parroquia

Jueves 12 de diciembre **12:00 PM y 6:00 PM**

Viernes 13 de diciembre **12:00 PM**
Santa Lucia

III Domingo de Adviento

Sabado 14 de diciembre **7:00 PM**

Domingo 15 de diciembre **11:00 AM**

Domingo 15 de diciembre **1:00 PM**
Por la Comunidad Parroquial

Lunes, 9 de diciembre: Dado que el Segundo Domingo de Adviento cayó el día 8, la fiesta de la Inmaculada Concepción de la Virgen María se traslada al lunes 9.

Se celebrará Misa a las 12pm en honor a la Inmaculada.

Fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe: El Jueves 12 de diciembre, además de la Misa de 12PM, tendremos Misa a las 6:00 pm, seguida de una Serenata en honor a la Virgen y se concluirá con un compartir.

Next Weekend—Third Sunday of Advent— Bambinelli Sunday

For the past several decades, the Pope has blessed the Baby Jesus figurines from Nativity Scenes that belong to families, and the families themselves, in St. Peter's Square in Rome. The blessing of the 'Bambinelli' – as they are known in Rome – reminds us that the Nativity scene is a school of life where we can learn the secrets of true joy. All are invited to bring your Baby Jesus figurines from your homes to Mass next weekend, **December 14 and December 15**, to be blessed as we too celebrate our own Bambinelli Sunday. After the blessing you are encouraged to take your 'Bambinelli' home and place it in a gift box, wrap the box and save it for Christmas. Let this be the first gift you open on Christmas day - as you lay Jesus in the Manger, allow this moment to be a reminder of the great blessings we receive at Christmas.